



# REBUS CHRONICLES

## May 2019

*Dear Presidents, Secretaries and Officers,*

### **Third Annual General Meeting of Rebus NZ Incorporated.**

This took place at the Palmerston Nth Community Centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019. There were 84 in attendance including Presidents and representatives of 22 Clubs from as far away as Orewa, Tauranga, Taupo, and Martinborough. Graeme McIntosh was re-elected Chairman for a further two years as was Peter Odendaal as Secretary. Norma Parker and John Lee were also re-elected to the Board for a further two years. Consequent upon Murray Dunbar's retirement, Lynn Coverdale has been appointed Treasurer.

Two Board vacancies have been filled by Nigel Dougan, the current President of Combined Rebus Club of Paraparaumu Beach and Richard Elliott, IPP, of Omanu Rebus Club, Mt Maunganui

The meeting strongly endorsed the Board's performance during the past year and Jean, Editor of Rebus Cub News was warmly commended for her dedication to each month's production.

The 2020 AGM is to be held at Taupo hosted by the Taupo Moana Rebus Club who are now putting together a social program for consideration of delegates.



**Nigel Dougan, John Lee, Norma Parker, Graeme McIntosh, Peter Odendaal, Lynn McLeod, Lynn Coverdale, (Richard Elliot – see insert, absent Overseas).**



**Secretary Peter addresses the meeting.**



**Chairman Graeme presents his Report.**

**Membership promotion and Retention.** At the AGM, numerous and useful suggestions were made from the floor for member recruitment including:

- i. A4 Posters for display in places like Retirement Villages (a sample is on the Rebus website)
- ii. DLE size brochures for display in Dentist & Doctors' waiting rooms, Public Libraries etc
- iii. Shoulder tapping friends neighbours and acquaintances
- iv. Community Newspapers where adverts are often free. (Stuff and Neighbourly etc)
- v. Citizens Advice Bureaux who provide a community service by stocking promotional material
- vi. More material to be added to the Rebus NZ Website for local adaption
- vii. Clubs to develop their own websites as the Senior Citizen population becomes more internet savvy.

The Chairman emphasized his belief that whilst ongoing recruitment is necessary to replace natural attrition, **looking after a Club's existing members is equally important.** To maintain a new member's interest, Club management should ensure a mentoring program is in place to assist integration - especially where a new entrant may not know many existing members. Participation within Interest Groups can be particularly helpful in getting a new member to feel comfortable in new surroundings.

The meeting seemed to agree that the greatest source of new members came through referrals from within. An example was given where one affiliated Club had two of its members competing with each other as to who could introduce the most prospective members from their respective streets. Six in one case and five in the other!

A limerick was read to the meeting which is reproduced below. [The Rebus Board wishes to encourage Newsletter Editors to include it in their next edition](#) – and perhaps Clubs might even consider running a competition to recognize a member who has gone the extra mile in promoting Club membership.

**Just bring your friend as a guest  
Our committee will then do the rest  
We steer a safe course  
They'll back the right horse  
For Retirees, Yes, Rebus is best!**

Of course, before your members will feel motivated to invite a friend, neighbour etc to a meeting, they must be confident that the visitor will be impressed with what is seen and heard. Well run meetings with clear Agendas, good speakers and an interesting program, all add to that first impression. You need to be confident that a visitor to your club will be sufficiently impressed to want to come again.

***If not, a review of your meeting procedure might be worth considering.***

It is quality, not numbers alone which a Club needs. Members who attend infrequently and always have to be chased for their Subs, add little to a Club's performance. A clear outline of what is expected of a new member such as willingness to be a mini speaker and a regular participation in Club activities, will make sure the relationship starts out on the right foot. Where a member's attendance has fallen away, an effort to find out why, can prove a very useful exercise – and possibly achieve a turn-around.

### Significant Anniversaries Celebrated in 2019.

Twelve Rebus Clubs will achieve their milestone Anniversaries this year, with each to receive a Rebus NZ Certificate of Attainment. Three of these Clubs attended the AGM and were presented with theirs. They were Hastings Rebus Club – 35 Years, Rebus Club of Palmerston Nth, 35 years and Rebus Club of Wanganui also 35 years.



**New Board Member  
Nigel Dougan  
is welcomed by Chairman Graeme.**

A former Rotarian, he is currently serving his second term as President of Combined Rebus Club of Paraparaumu Beach. A good example - if you want a job done – give it to a busy man!

Prior to shifting to the area from Marlborough with wife Mary, Nigel was a member of the Blenheim Probus Club. Following a banking and finance career, he set up his own Accounting & Taxation service in 1995 until his retirement late last year.

**Rebus Car Windscreen Stickers.** Samples sent to Clubs have resulted in a flood of orders – so much so that fresh stocks had to be obtained. Their new design allows a larger backing sheet so that the sticker itself, is more easily removed. Several Clubs uplifted their supplies from the new stock displayed at the AGM

If your Club wishes to place an order, a form for that purpose is attached – or can be ordered from the Regalia page of the Rebus NZ Website. Cost is \$1 each with a min order of 20 stickers. If every vehicle owned by your members displays a sticker – perhaps on both front and rear screens, familiarity with the Rebus name within your community can only be further improved.

***Perhaps your Club could consider including a Screen Sticker/s as part of the Induction process?***

**Calendar 2020.** We have now received the first photo entries for 2020. And they are impressive! By the closing date – 15<sup>th</sup> September, we anticipate having some great material from which to select the 12 best shots. As previously mentioned, runners up will feature in the rear of the calendar with the name of the photographer and his/her Club.

**Appearance of this edition.** You may have noticed that the Banner used in the March and April editions has gone. We were told at the AGM, that the one used on Chronicles and also on Club News, was a disincentive to printing off for non-email members because of the ink used. Sorry, it had not occurred to us.

Warm regards,

**Graeme McIntosh** (Chairman)